

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00772 131004Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 130536Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 288

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

DOD WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, PINT, PINS, MI, MZ, TZ, ZA

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRESIDENT BANDA RE MOZAMBIQUE

REF: LILONGWE 0729

1. AT HIS REQUEST I MET WITH PRESIDENT BANDA IN BLANTYRE, AUGUST 10. OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE SEEMED TO BE VAGUE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN INSTALLING NEW AMERICAN (GATES) 50KW MEDIUM WAVE TRANSMITTER IN MZUZU FOR MBC. AFTER FIVE MINUTES ON THIS TOPIC HE TURNED TO CURRENT AMERICAN POLITICAL SCENE WHICH HE HAS CLEARLY BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSELY WITH GREAT INTEREST.

2. FOLLOWING ABOVE GENERAL DISCUSSION I BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF MALAWI RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE. BANDA REVIEWED CURRENT SITUATION IN SEEMINGLY RELAXED, UNCONCERNED WAY AND SAID THAT ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO MACHEL GOVERNMENT SENT DELEGATION TO MALAWI TO DISCUSS STEPS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS; THAT
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PAGE 02 LILONG 00772 131004Z

TALKS WENT WELL BUT STILL OOO SOON TO KNOW IF DESIRED RESULT WILL

MATERIALIZE; THAT "AS YOU KNOW, GOM SUPPORTS THE U.S., AND THEREFORE RUSSIANS WILL DO WHAT THEY CAN TO PREVENT IT". EMPHASIZED THAT SENDING DELEGATION WAS FRELIMO INITIATIVE. ALSO, THAT GOM FEEDING LARGE NUMBERS MOZAMBICANS AND THAT VARIOUS MOZAMBIQUE LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE FOR RELATIONS WITH MALAWI. ADMITTED THAT HERETOFORE GOM HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH SIGNIFICANT LEVEL MACHEL REGIME BUT THAT DELEGATION MADE UP OF SENIOR OFFICIALS. IN GENERAL WAY HE REPEATED VARIOUS CLICHES NOW POPULAR HERE TO EFFECT MACHEL NOT YET IN FIRM CONTROL, DOES NOT TRUST HIS ARMY, NEVER SLEEPS IN HIS STATE HOUSE, TROUBLE IN NORTH, ETC., BUT IT NEVERTHELESS EVIDENT HE WOULD LIKE NORMALIZE RELATIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH BANDA CLEARLY IMPLIED MAIN PURPOSE MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION WAS TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH MALAWI WE BELIEVE HE WAS REFERRING TO DELEGATION SENT TO U.N. REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE HELD IN BLANTYRE JULY 19-21 AND QUITE POSSIBLY THERE IS LARGE ELEMENT WISHFUL THINKING ON BANDA'S PART. IT MAY BE NOTED THAT AT NO POINT DID HE SUGGEST OR REFLECT THE CONCERN OF HIS ARMY AS REPORTED REFTEL.
STEVENSON

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